

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ROME

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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 6491

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TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESS ON SECRETARY'S REMARKS - CONTINUED

SUMMARY: SECRETARY'S OBSERVATION ON "LEGITIMACY" OF EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS DREW FURTHER CRITICISM IN FRENCH PRESS, AND THURSDAY, FROM FORMER EEC COMMISSION PRESIDENT JEAN REY. CENTRIST POLITICAL LEADER LECANUET IN TV INTERVIEW WAS ALSO CRITICAL, BUT DIRECTED MOST OF HIS FIRE AT JOBERT ATTITUDE AND GOF MOTIVATIONS. IN FIGARO, RAYMOND ARON SAID "THUNDERBOLTS" FROM WASHINGTON AND "ACID REPLIES" FROM PARIS ARE NOT WORTH MAKING A TRAGEDY OVER. END SUMMARY

1. LA NATION, ORGAN OF GAULLIST PARTY, ADVISED AGAINST MAKING COMPARISONS BETWEEN "EXCELLENT " FRENCH-SOVIET RELATIONS AND THE UNCLASSIFIED

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"TENSION, DOUBTLESS MOMENTARY" THAT CURRENTLY EXISTS BETWEEN

US AND EUROPE, AND PARTICULARLY BETWEEN U.S. AND FRANCE. SINCE JOBERT HAS EXPLAINED THE "PROFOUND CAUSES OF OUR DISAGREEMENTS WITH WASHINGTON", WROTE PAPER'S POLITICAL DIRECTOR, IT IS "BETTER TO LET AMERICAN THEMSELVES CONDEMN THE LATEST COMMENTS OF MR. KISSINGER ABOUT THE 'LEGITIMACY' OF EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS, AS THE NEW YORK TIMES HAS JUST DONE. WE'LL CONTENT OURSELVES WITH THE REMINDER -- SINCE MR. KISSINGER HAS HAD THE REMARKABLE CLUMSINESS TO PRETEND THAT FOR 50 YEARS NEARLY ALL THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN ILLEGITIMATE -- THAT THE U.S. DURING THE LAST WAR RECOGNIZED ONLY THE VICHY GOVERNMENT, WHOSE LEGITIMACY WAS AS LEAST ARGUABLE".

2. FROM WASHINGTON, FIGARO CORRESPONDENT JACQUET-FRANCILLON REPORTED THAT "MOST EDITORIALISTS IN THE AMERICAN PRESS ARE ASKING THIS MORNING WHAT FLY HAS BITTEN MR. KISSINGER", AND THAT "THEIR COMMENTS ARE NOT TENDER" FOR THE SECRETARY. "I HASTEN TO ADD", HE WENT ON, "THAT THEY ARE NOT TENDER, EITHER, FOR FRANCE AND THAT, IF THERE IS A FLY, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT FOR THE AMERICAN PRESS IT IS MR. JOBERT". SINCE HIS COMMENTS ON LEGITIMACY OF EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS, JACQUET-FRANCILLON NOTED, "MR. KISSINGER HAS RECTIFIED THE MATTER " IN A SAYING HE DID NOT KNOW HIS REMARKS WOULD BE REPORTED -- REMARKS HE QUOTES NYTIMES DESCRIBING AS "INCREDIBLE". STATEMENT MADE LATER BY DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, SAID JACQUET-FRANCILLON, WAS MODERATE IN TONE AND SPOKE OF APPROACHING CURRENT DIFFICULTIES WITH PATIENCE AND IN CONCILIATORY SPIRIT." "BUT MR. KISSINGER IS NOT FOOLING ANYONE. THERE IS NOT A SINGLE DIPLOMATIC OBSERVER IN WASHINGTON WHO BELIEVES THAT HE DID NOT THINK HIS WORDS WOULD HIT THE FRONT PAGES, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER." IN REFERENCE TO AUDIENCE OF CONGRESSIONAL WIVES, JACQUET-FRANCILLON SAID "EVERYONE KNOWS-- OUR COLLEAGUES DANIELLE HUNEBELLE AND ORIANA FALACCI WOULDN'T DENY IT -- THAT A PRETTY FEMININE FACE IS ENOUGH TO GET 'DEAR HENRY' TO SAY THINGS HE WILL REGRET NEXT DAY. BUT THIS TIME, MR. KISSINGER KNEW PERFECTLY WELL WHAT HE WAS DOING... MR. NIXON AND HIS SECSTATE ARE CONVINCED THEY CAN PLAY ON EUROPEAN DIVISIONS TO THEIR ADVANTAGE; THEY THINK THERE ARE ENOUGH POLITICAL MEN IN POWER IN EUROPE WHO PREFER AN 'ATLANTIC EUROPE' TO A 'EUROPEAN EUROPE; THEY THINK IT SUFFICES TO RAISE THEIR VOICES, TO GIVE THE IMPRESSION THEY ARE READY TO GO TO EXTREMES, IN ORDER TO FRIGHTEN THOSE WHO CARE MORE FOR THE 'ATOMIC UMBRELLA' THAN FOR EUROPEAN UNITY, AND STAMPEDE THEM BACK

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INTO UNCLE SAM'S ARMS. MAY BE THEY ARE RIGHT. IN A FEW MONTHS WE'LL KNOW. BUT WE CAN MAKE A WISH: THAT MR. KISSINGER, UNACCUSTOMEDLY, IS WRONG IN HIS ANALYSIS. HIS ERROR WOULD HAVE CONSIDERABLE HISTORIC EFFECT -- IT WOULD MAKE HIM, OVER HIS DEAD BODY, THE UNIFIER OF EUROPE".

3. IN ANOTHER FIGARO COLUMN, ENTITLED "DIPLOMATIC FUN AND GAMES", RAYMOND ARON TRACED HISTORY OF FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS SINCE

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1969. "IN MY OPINION, THE TROUBLE BEGAN WITH THE END OF US INTERVENTION IN VIETNAM AND WITH THE SPECTACULAR AGREEMENTS BETWEEN NIXON AND BREZHNEV IN MOSCOW IN 1972 AND THE FOLLOWING YEAR IN WASHINGTON. MR. JOBERT CONDEMNED FIRST THE SOVIET-AMERICAN CONDOMINIUM AND THEN THE ILLUSORY NATURE OF THEIR RAPPROCHEMENT. THE YOM KIPPUR WAR GAVE THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER A CHANCE TO MAKE HIS CONTRADICTIONARY ACCUSATIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY. THE BASIS OF SOVIET-AMERICAN RAPPORT IS PRECISELY THAT COMBINATION OF CONFLICT AND COOPERATION; THUS ANYONE CAN ATTACK FIRST AN (IMAGINARY) CONDOMINIUM AND THEN A FAILURE IN COOPERATION. A RHETORICIAN TAKES PLEASURE FROM SCORING POINTS; A DIPLOMAT SHOULD REFRAIN FROM SUCH FACILE SUCCESSES.

4. "AS OF TODAY, I STILL CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE THOUGHTS OR

MOTIVES OF OUR LEADERS, WHAT MAKES THE SOVIET-AMERICAN DIALOGUE
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SEEM THREATENING TO THEM? IS IT FOR FRENCH SECURITY, FOR THE
PRESTIGE THAT COMES WITH ACCESS TO MAJOR DECISIONS, FOR THE FORMER
(FRENCH) MONOPOLY ON SPECIAL RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW?...

5. "MR. KISSINGER'S (APRIL) SPEECH CONTAINED BLUNDERS IN
PROCEDURE AND SOME EXPRESSIONS WHICH WOUNDED. HE WAS ALREADY
SHOWING A HINT OF THE ARROGANCE WHICH HAS BECOME MORE AND MORE
APPARENT. BUT I CONTINUE TO REGRET THAT THE QUAI D'ORSAY
DIPLOMATS USED THEIR TALENTS ONLY TO SIDESTEP THE TRAPS --
WHETHER REAL OR POTENTIAL -- AT THE RISK OF MISSING OPPORTUNITIES...

6. "IN THE ENERGY CRISIS, FRENCH DIPLOMATS HAVE BEEN DEBATING
WHETHER THE U.S. DESIRED, OR ACCEPTED NOT UNHAPPILY, OR INADVER-
TENTLY PROVOKED THE SPECTACULAR UPSET OF THE (WORLD) ECONOMIC
SITUATION. RECENTLY MR. JOBERT BLAMED THE CRISIS ON THE UNDISCI-
PLINED FLAT OF THE DOLLAR -- AT THE MOST ONLY ONE CAUSE OF THE
POWER OF THE PRODUCER NATIONS' CARTEL.

7. IN THIS CLIMATE OF SUSPICION AND BITTERNESS, A BONFIRE WAS ALL
THAT WAS NEEDED TO SET OFF AN EXPLOSION (DIPLOMATICO-VERBAL,
FORTUNATELY). MR. JOBERT DECIDED TO LIGHT IT... "LET US ADD THAT
MR. KISSINGER'S THUNDERBOLTS AND MR. JOBERT'S ACID REPLIES RETAIN A
COMMON TRAIT: THESE DIPLOMATIC BATTLES ARE NOT WORTH MAKING A
TRAGEDY OVER THEM. THEY ARE NOT THE SPORT OF PRINCES, BUT THAT
OF DIPLOMATS OR STARS."

8. IN TELEVISION INTERVIEW WEDNESDAY EVENING, DEMOCRATIC
CENTRIST POLITICAL LEADER JEAN LECANUET SAID HE DOES NOT "APPRE-
CIATE THE DECLARATIONS OF MR. KISSINGER THAT THE U.S. SHOULD
IN SOME WAY LEAD EUROPE"; BUT THAT HE ALSO DOESN'T LIKE JOBERT
"WHEN HE INDULGES EVERY DAY IN ANTI-AMERICANISM. PRESIDENT POMPIDOU
HAS SAID SEVERAL TIMES THAT FRANCE'S INTEREST REMAINS IN THE
ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. AND HERE JOBERT SEEMS TO CONTEST US HELP
AND ITS PRESENCE HERE TO ASSURE OUR SECURITY IN EUROPE... I WONDER
IF THIS ANTI-AMERICAN POLEMIC IS NOT BEING CARRIED ON TO SATISFY
THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY (SO AS TO COOL FRENCH LABOR UNREST
STEMMING FROM) THE COMING ECONOMIC CRISIS".

9. ON BELGIAN RADIO WEDNESDAY, FORMER EEC COMMISSION PRESIDENT
JEAN REY EXPRESSED FOLLOWING VIEWS: "MR. KISSINGER DOES NOT LIKE
EUROPE. HE DOESN'T KNOW VERY WELL THE POLICY THAT PRECEDED HIS
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COMING TO POWER. HE DOESN'T KNOW VERY WELL THE HISTORY OF THE COMMON MARKET AND ALL THE EFFORTS MADE IN THE DIRECTION OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. HE IS IN THE PROCESS OF DEGRADING THESE RELATIONS IN A MORE AND MORE SERIOUS MANNER... IF (HE THINKS) THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY WILL OBEY HIM, HE IS MAKING A MISTAKE. IF THE ACCOUNT OF HIS REMARKS IS ACCURATE, IT PROVES THAT HE IS A YOUNG MINISTER, LACKING EXPERIENCE, WHO MUST LEARN HIS PROFESSION".
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